

WEB SITE INCLUSION OF VA  
SCHOLARSHIPS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2009*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1172—to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors. This important measure would provide an invaluable resource for our veterans and their survivors. In an effort to increase information accessibility, this bill would create a convenient section within the Veterans Affairs Department website for veterans and/or their survivors to view all available veteran scholarship opportunities that various public and private organizations sponsor throughout the year. I commend Rep. JOHN BOOZMAN for bringing this measure before the floor.

My veteran constituents frequently contact me with reports on the many administrative failures and shortcomings of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Slow processes and backlogs have become the expectation rather than an exception in the level of service our veterans receive. This is unfortunate as we send these brave men and women to armed conflict, and yet, we cannot provide them with the necessary tools and resources to become re-oriented with society. This bill provides one solution to a relatively simple problem. I have no doubt, however, that many veterans and their families will appreciate this information, especially in light of the economic recession.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H.R. 1172. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the necessary resources towards improving our Department of Veterans Affairs' administration and services.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 26, 2009*

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the First Baptist Church of Danville, Virginia, which celebrates its 175th anniversary on June 28, 2009. Since its founding in 1834, the First Baptist Church has been a source of fellowship, education, and service in its community and beyond.

Although the First Baptist Church has suffered from a terrible fire, moved its location several times, seen the town it serves grow from 1,000 to almost 50,000, and faced countless other changes throughout its long history, it remains true to its founding principles. Under the leadership of Reverend Stephen Cook, today the church is a community of strong relationships, where individuals bond over worship, meals, study, and music. Their affinity extends beyond just Sunday mornings to include weekly dinners, small group meetings, choirs and instrumental ensembles, programs for seniors and children, cultural outings, and

engagement in the larger community through service.

I commend the First Baptist Church and its leadership on this commitment to hands-on service, whether locally, elsewhere in our nation, or abroad. The church has stated, "When our worship together ends, our service truly begins," and it has undoubtedly abided by this principle. The numerous organizations that have benefitted from the dedication and generosity of the church's congregants include Hope Harbor, Hope Tree Family Services, God's Storehouse, Kloth's 4 Kids, the Danville Homeless Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, and Baptist World Aid. The efforts of the First Baptist Church to live out its mission in its works are an inspiring example: we should all strive to be so diligent in following the call to love and serve our fellow man.

The Book of Isaiah tells us, "And if you give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness, and your gloom will become like midday." I congratulate the First Baptist Church on its tireless efforts to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the Danville community, and I hope that its light will continue to shine for many years to come.

ARMY RESERVE ASSOCIATION'S  
ENLISTED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 26, 2009*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to speak on a wonderful program that impacts the lives of many great heroes and their families. The Army Reserve Association's, ARA United States Army Reserve, USAR Enlisted Scholarship Program awards a \$500 scholarship to assist qualifying enlisted reservists or their dependents attend an institution of higher learning.

Started in 2000 as an initiative of Command Sergeant Major Ray Lackey, this program has awarded a total of \$225,500 in scholarships. Through the generosity of the United Services Automobile Association, USAA, the administrative efforts of the ARA, and the support of the USAR, these patriots have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. The opportunity to further their education not only benefits these heroes, but the Army Reserve and the country as a whole.

I applaud the Army Reserve Association and all those responsible for this effort on behalf of our Army Reserve soldiers and their families. Additionally, I request that the following two letters regarding this program be inserted into the record: a letter from the Army Reserve Association and a letter from Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve.

THE ARMY RESERVE ASSOCIATION,  
*Fort McPherson, GA, March 3, 2009.*  
Subject ARA Enlisted Scholarship Program Standards Approval.

Lieutenant General JACK C. STULTZ,  
*Commanding General,*  
*U.S. Army Reserve*

DEAR LIEUTENANT GENERAL STULTZ: This letter requests you approve the standards of the ARA Enlisted Scholarship Program listed below. Request approval of the following standards:

- (1) a member of the USAR not under flag or pending disciplinary action;
- (2) qualified in the MOS of their position of assignment;
- (3) attending or entering an institution of higher learning (2 or 4 year college, vocational school, bible college, etc.) that is regionally or nationally accredited;
- (4) military dependents must be registered in DEERS.

The applicant's chain of command CSM or SGM will certify that the applicant meets qualification standards (1) through (4), as applicable.

The ARA Enlisted Scholarships are for enlisted members of the United States Army Reserve and their dependent family members. Each year the ARA offers scholarships to each major command to which USAR members are assigned as designated by the Command Sergeant Major of the USAR. The annual goal of awarding fifty scholarships is predicated on the number of major commands participating and the number of scholarship applicants from each major command, as well as the amount of funds donated by the program cosponsor, the United Services Automobile Association (USAA).

The Army Reserve Association will create an announcement for the annual scholarship program and will transmit that announcement to the USARC G-1 with a request that the USARC G-1 forward the announcement to each major command. The announcement will include the approved standards and an application form that each command's applicants can use to apply for the scholarships. The calendar year program's closing date for receipt of all applications is 31 December, unless a waiver is granted.

We request the USARC G-1 to forward the scholarship program announcement to USAR commands with instructions on submitting the applications to the USARC G-1 together with submission dates specified by the USARC G-1, so that applications can be forwarded to the ARA in time for evaluation and award of scholarships.

The ARA will appoint a selection board with a board president from its existing association membership to select nominations for award of the ARA Enlisted Scholarship Award. Board members will serve in their private-citizen capacity and not in any military role and the board recorder may be a member of the Army Reserve Association. The selection list will be compiled, signed by the ARA enlisted scholarship selection board president and forwarded to the ARA for issuance of individual scholarship awards. The ARA may choose to either present or mail the awards to the Soldier's command or directly to the individual.

We appreciate your continued support and assistance in implementing this program. Sincerely,

MG KENT HILLHOUSE (R),  
*President, Army Reserve Association.*

COL GEORGE M. LIND, (R)  
*Director, ARA Field Support Services.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, OFFICE  
OF THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE,  
WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 24, 2009.  
Major General KENT HILLHOUSE, RETIRED,  
*Winfield, Kansas.*

DEAR GENERAL HILLHOUSE: This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 3, 2009, requesting approval of the eligibility standards for the Army Reserve Association (ARA) Enlisted Scholarship Program. I approve the following eligibility standards:

- a. an enlisted member of the U.S. Army Reserve not under flag or pending disciplinary action
- b. qualified in the MOS of their position of assignment